

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Gustav Kliment Pipe Rolling Mills in Chomutov	DATE DISTR.	16 September 1955	25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Gustav Kliment Pipe Rolling Mills in Chomutov produces only seamless tubes in ranges from 1/8 inch to 12 inches or 20 inches. An insignificant part of the output consists of tubes of high-quality heat-resistant, acid-resistant, and other steels. 25X1
2. The following are the main installations of the Pipe Rolling Mills:
 - a. A Merr tube enlarging plant, set up by the German firm Merr before the war for the production of 20-inch pipes. These are enlarged from 318 millimeters to 508 millimeters (= 20 inches). (The Poles have installed a similar enlarging plant since the war at, it is believed, the Lenin Foundry in Nowa Huta). The plant had its first major overhaul in 1954, when the entire cast iron frame had to be renewed and production stopped for about a fortnight.
 - b. Five rolling mills as follows:
 - One Stiefel, German, pre-war.
 - One small Mannesmann, German, pre-war.
 - Two Pilger, German, pre-war.
 - One small Mannesmann, built by the Vitkovice Klement Gottwald Iron Works and installed two or three years ago.
 - c. The cold and hot reducing plant is of the old-fashioned type; i.e., billets are heated and then worked.
 - d. The billet-piercing plant is also of the old-fashioned type.
3. Face-grinding machines for the 20-inch pipes were sent by the Russians to Chomutov, it is believed a few years ago, so that the mill could turn out pipes of the tolerance the Russians insisted on; this was plus or minus three millimeters. The legend which accompanied the machines made it quite clear that they were in fact not capable of working to the tolerance which the Russians themselves had demanded from the mill. (There are in fact no GOST stand-

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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ards for the 20-inch pipes).

4. [redacted] output [redacted] is perhaps 150,000 tons a year. Much of the output is exported, particularly to the USSR. The whole output of 35,000 tons of 20-inch pipes goes to the USSR.
5. The works operate at full capacity, given present equipment. So far as expansion is concerned, it is intended to install a "Stossbank".¹ (The Hungarians, it is known, are using one with good results). The steel used at the Chomutov plant is mostly supplied by the Konev Foundry of the United Steel Works (SONP) in Kladno. There are very bad storage facilities. Morale is very low among the workers, who are a mixed lot of Gypsies, Rumanians, Hungarians, and Slovaks. There has been an almost complete change of staff since the expulsion of the Germans. The power plant is thermoelectric.
6. Three full shifts are worked. Some 3,000 workers may be employed, but this is not certain. The managing director is Krchov (fnu), a keen Communist. The chief engineer is Eng. R. Krejci, a sound technician who is probably not a convinced Communist.
1. [redacted] Comment: Not further identified. Literally, a push bench.

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